

THE PRESBYTERIAN

OF THE SOUTH
COMBINING
THE SOUTHWESTERN PRESBYTERIAN
THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN

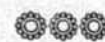
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Editorial Notes and Comment



M ISSIONARIES from Korea to America. How does that sound? And yet are they not needed? We have just read the account of a Bible study institute, in which 675 men were enrolled for two solid weeks of Bible study. So as not to interfere with their hours of study they held a prayer meeting at sunrise. The first morning the thermometer was ten degrees below zero, but six hundred men were present. From morning to morning the attendance at the prayer meeting increased, until at the end of the two weeks it had reached 900. Think of it, 900 at a sunrise prayer meeting in zero weather. If the men of America had the same zeal for Bible study and prayer that these Korean Christians show, there would be such a revival of religion in this country that it would shake the whole world.

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E NGLAND is at present faced with a curious condition of affairs. As the result of Germany's submarine warfare and conditions at home, the food supply has been materially reduced, and prices have correspondingly risen. And yet it is probable that German submarines have not destroyed as much food as has been destroyed in the manufacture of liquor. Hundreds of thousands of tons of the best grain are taken from the food supply to be used in producing inefficiency among workmen and soldiers, and at the same time directly and indirectly increasing the hunger of the nation. It is said the government is unable to handle the problem so as to put a stop to this fearful economic and moral waste, because of the social and financial standing of the makers of liquor. This is just an illustration of the power of the liquor business, and how lacking it is in patriotism or consideration for the welfare of the country. But there is great consolation in the fact that the world is waking up to the evil which liquor brings upon those who use it, and we believe that it will not be very long before the civilized nations will throw off its shackles. And did you ever think of it, that will practically mean a world free from the use of liquor? It is the civilized nations of the world that make and use liquor, and sell it to the uncivilized nations. What we call the uncivilized peoples know little of intoxicating liquors, until taught their use by civilized people. What a paradox!

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T HE PRESBYTERIAN and The Westminster of Toronto, Canada, two most excellent papers, have been combined into one, under the name of The Presbyterian and Westminster. These papers have both been of a high order, ably edited, and they have lost nothing by the combination. This is one of the most readable papers coming to our desk, and is of the conservative evangelical kind, which befits the great Church it represents.

P RESBYTERIES will begin meetings very soon. Let us suggest that Sessions as soon as possible will select their representatives. Often a church is not represented at Presbytery, or the elder sent to represent it can stay only a part of the time. This is almost always due to the fact that the important matter of selecting the man to go is put off until just a few days before the meeting. Under such circumstances it cannot be expected that a busy man can drop his work and go. He ought to have time to arrange his plans beforehand. If this course is pursued by the Sessions more elders will attend Presbytery, and stronger men will be found among them.

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The Rally Call

We are living, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time,
In an age on ages telling:
To be living is sublime.
Hark! the waking up of nations—
Gog and Magog to the fray!
Hark! what soundeth? Is creation
Groaning for its latter day?

Will you play then, will you dally
With your music and your wine?
Up! it is Jehovah's rally!
God's own arm hath need of thine.
Hark the onset! will you fold your
Faith-clad arms in lazy lock?
Up! oh up! thou drowsy soldier—
Worlds are charging to the shock.

Worlds are charging—heaven beholding;
Thou has but an hour to fight;
Now the blazoned Cross unfolding,
On, right onward, for the right;
On! let all the soul within you
For the truth's sake go abroad:
Strike! let every nerve and sinew
Tell on ages—tell for God.

—Bishop Cox.

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T HANKS are due and are hereby given to many of our subscribers who have recently paid up the indebtedness on their subscription account. One of these who was only a little behind not only paid what was due, but paid in advance to 1920 and another to 1921. This we appreciate most highly. But all we ask is that our subscribers will pay what is due. This is shown by the label on your paper. The date shows the time to which the subscription has been paid. Add enough years to that date to carry it past the present and you can easily make the calculation of the amount due. Most people do not like to get bills, but it seems that a few of our subscribers must find great pleasure in receiving them, as they let us send them so many before we hear from them. If there are any such among our subscribers, we want to assure them, from our own experience, that a receipt affords a great deal more pleasure than a bill. We would much rather send a receipt than a bill. Try it.

H IGH cost of living is being discussed and felt on all sides. High prices have been the means of bringing high profits to men in many lines of business. But they do not help the man with a fixed income; but they bear very heavily upon him. Many business men have recognized this fact and have advanced the salaries paid their employees. We fear this has not been the case with many of the churches. We believe this has not been due to unwillingness nor in many cases to inability but more to indifference and thoughtlessness. As the churches are making plans for a new year, this is a good time to think about this.

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T HE Reform Bureau of Washington, D. C., of which Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts is the superintendent, and who really controls its policies, is making an earnest effort to place a large wall copy of the Ten Commandments in every public school in the country. This is an excellent thing to do. It will be worth a great deal to have the Commandments always before the children. Their continual reading of them will make impressions upon their minds and hearts. But we cannot understand why Dr. Crafts, a Presbyterian preacher, should want to send out with the Commandments a series of questions and answers as to their teaching, prepared by a Roman Catholic priest, which are not in accord with Protestant teachings. Nor can we understand why he should be basing his plea for placing these Commandments in the schools upon certain statements made by a few Roman priests, who profess to favor the reading of the Bible. It is a well-known fact that the Roman Catholic Church is opposed to the public school system of this country. It is also a well-known fact that this Church does not approve of its people reading the Bible as Protestants do. It has frequently said that the people could only read it under the guidance of a priest, which means that they are not to read it at all. Dr. Crafts quotes Cardinal Gibbons as saying, among other things: "Read it not so much with the desire of information as of edification." Just what is meant by this we are not sure. Webster defines "edification" as "a building up in a moral or spiritual sense; moral, intellectual, or spiritual improvement; instruction." How edification can be secured without information we do not understand. Nor can we understand why the Bible is to be read, if it be not to learn what God would there teach us. Nor can we understand why any one should want to read the Bible, if he is to close his mind against the reception of the information which it presents on the great vital subjects concerning man's immortal soul. We cannot help wondering if Dr. Crafts has received any real help from the Catholic Church in his efforts to put the Bible into the schools or whether he does not have to depend upon Protestants for material and moral support.